

Building Our Future

INDIANA CAREER MAJORS

Special Interest Articles:

- Lafayette Jefferson presents to Roundtable
- Owen Valley holds OVHS Institute
- Career Majors Institutes

Department of Workforce Development Education & Training 317-233-5663

BIG - Building the Innovative Generation

In Indiana, a pilot program was designed that brought industry, government and academia together under a collaborative effort to support innovative lifelong learning in engineering. As part of a program called "Building the Innovation Generation", five Indiana teachers completed ten-week summer internships at the Rolls-Royce plant in Indianapolis. Through federal funds from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, the Department of Workforce Development provided some funding and training for this program. The Department of Education provided additional funding.

"They (the teachers) will be able to take this training and knowledge back to their classroom, along with some other useful projects," said David Quick, Manager of Research and Development at Rolls-Royce.

The project aims to help Rolls-Royce and Indiana grow its own group of engineers and provide a new generation of innovators to help the company, the state, and the nation survive and thrive in the high-tech economy.

The educators worked alongside company engineers on a variety of technical issues. They performed jobs that would not have been done quickly, or perhaps at all, if not for the extra labor provided by them.

"I have definitely learned a lot," said Kelli McGregor who teaches for Kokomo High School. "When I came in here, I thought I knew what I was getting into and, of course, I didn't. I've met wonderful people who have helped open my eyes to what engineering is in the design process, getting things working, promoting those things and working as a team."

But, of course, since they are teachers, they are most excited that what they have learned on the job will be mostly beneficial to their students once they return to school.

Jay Snellenberger, Manager of Employee Development at Rolls Royce says that everyone benefits from this unique effort for economic development. "This is the kind of project that you can't help but have a passion for," he says. "These teachers came in with a level of understanding regarding engineering. Once they arrived and became active in the engineering workforce at Rolls-Royce, it really opened their eyes to the fact that there was more to it than they had previously thought. Not only did they learn, but the information they will be able to pass on back in their classrooms is priceless."

The BKD Indiana Excellence Award Committee selected this pilot program as one of the finalists in their awards competition. BKD is one of the top-ten accounting firms in the country. The team also competed in the Rolls-Royce Chief Executive Quality Award competition in Indianapolis and Derby, England.

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"Building the Innovation Generation" team



"First, school leaders should throw out all the rules of how they think about school. They should ask themselves what an ideal school would look like and then find ways to achieve this vision. Second, school leaders must be willing to take risks on behalf of children - anyone who is willing to take this risk is better for it."

*Vince Bertram, Principal
Lafayette Jefferson High School*



Lafayette Jefferson High School presents to Indiana Education Roundtable on Career Majors as Education reform model

Dr. Ed Eiler, Superintendent of Lafayette School Corporation, (LSC), and Vince Bertram, Principal of Lafayette Jefferson High School, gave a presentation to the Indiana Education Roundtable on Career Academies. Dr. Eiler discussed how LSC has been working on the same issues the Education Roundtable has been focusing on over the years. He explained that research on career pathways, smaller learning communities, senior year curriculum and school accountability were the driving forces behind their efforts. He also addressed how the model conforms to Indiana's P-16 Plan and the Core 40 requirements. He told the group that a student that wants to earn an Academy diploma must earn 52 credits, which is higher than most other Indiana high school degree requirements.

Mr. Bertram explained Lafayette Jefferson's Academy concept in more detail. He discussed the issue of making schools seem smaller by giving personal attention to each student. One of the goals he mentioned is to help students create a flexible schedule that is appropriate for their learning and provide a clear purpose or direction for their studies. He found that kids who know what they want to do are, in fact, doing it. He noted that career sequences will be a requirement for all students at the Jefferson Academy as Lafayette Schools move towards a more rigorous curriculum beyond Core 40 and Academic Honors.

Dr. Eiler and Mr. Bertram fielded questions from Roundtable members and were congratulated by Governor Kernan on their efforts.

Owen Valley holds Career Majors Institute for OVHS teachers

Owen Valley High School (OVHS) held a summer Career Majors Institute for their staff. They used the Institute format to provide professional development and team planning for nearly all of their staff. Teachers at OVHS selected the academy that most interested them. Most staff members received their first choice.

Sandra Mittelsteadt (Career Academy Support Network), Meaghan Argay (Academy Director at Pike High School), Bruce Ricklin (CAPE initiative), and Terri Schulz (Department of Workforce Development) provided content information for the opening session.

Teams then broke into groups by academy. Each team had a trained facilitator to guide them through the planning process. Content coaches from Pike High School, Borden Jr./Sr. High School and Ms. Mittelsteadt worked with teams to help them with the content questions of their individual academy.

All academy teams left with an action plan to start the school year. It was a valuable experience for all involved. Evaluations were very positive and OVHS staff are looking forward to a second Institute next year.



Indiana Career Majors Institutes to be held February 8-9 and March 15-16



DWD is making plans for the fifth and sixth annual Career Majors Institutes to be held at the Hilton Hotel located in downtown Indianapolis on February 8-9 and March 15-16, 2005. Due to the large number of school interested in the opportunity, DWD will hold the February Institute for implementation schools and the March Institute for planning schools. Implementation schools can choose to send either a school/consortium team or an academy team.

The institute concept combines professional development and concentrated planning time to help school/consortium teams move forward faster and more effectively in their school improvement plans. It is a two-day event focused on the development of strategic action plans to support a goal, in this case improving education through the implementation of Career Majors. All Career Majors schools are encouraged to attend. There are five main components to the Institute. The first is teams. Five to ten key stakeholders attend the Institute as a team. They work in individual teams for the majority of the

two-day Academy. The second is trained facilitators, one for each team. The third is content coaches that provide "just-in-time" technical assistance. The fourth is a product, a tangible "take home" action plan as a result of the Academy planning process. The fifth is evaluation/follow-up, to ensure continuing work and implementation of the plan.

There are many excellent content coaches that will be in attendance: Billie Donnegan, Santo Nicotera, Grace Sammon and Nancy Sutton have been confirmed as coaches for both events. Teams will choose several coaches to come into their team planning session to talk with them about practical knowledge and lessons learned. The discussion will revolve around questions the school team has in relation to the coach's expertise and the school's plan. There will also be time for team members to talk to the coaches at the Networking Reception on the evening of the Feb. 8th for the February event and March 15th for the March event.

Registration materials will be sent to Career Majors schools in December.

*"We loved our
facilitator & content
coaches; our team
accomplished a lot."*



*2004 Academy
Participant*

Notables

Kevin Kaluf, Technology Teacher at Kankakee Valley High School, was presented with the "Outstanding Young Educator Award" at the Technology Educators of Indiana conference in Jasper, IN.

Century Career Center in Logansport presented on Career Academies at the National Career Academy Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Portage High School will hold two all day site visits on Friday, December 10, 2004 and Friday March 11, 2005. Contact Lori Pavell at 219-764-6041 or lpavell@poratqe.k12.in.us for more information.



Send Us Your Stories

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The purpose of this monthly newsletter is to share information between the twenty Career Majors schools and their consortium members. All of you have many different good things going on and your own specialty areas that you are excelling at in your school and consortium. Please send any success stories and, if possible, digital pictures to Terri Schulz at tschulz@dwd.state.in.us.

Stories that include data are especially appreciated.

We will try to incorporate these success stories into the newsletter so you can see what the other schools are doing. Be sure to send contact information in the form that you would most like other schools to contact you for additional information. Schools that submit stories for the newsletter will receive 25 color copies of the newsletter for distribution to key stakeholders.

Thank you in advance for your help in getting these wonderful success stories to us.

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